



Cowbell Hollow Horse Trail

Greene County, TN

LOCATION: Old Forge Campground, Greeneville, TN

(Trail Head)

GPS REF: 36.092307, -82.715279

(Trail Head)

[Google Maps:](#)

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/Old+Forge+Campground/@36.092307,-82.7152379,13z>

DIRECTIONS: From Greeneville, take TN 107 east (off US 11E) for six miles and then follow signs to Horse Creek Recreation Area (approximately two miles). From Horse Creek, turn right onto Old Forge Road and go about three miles. The road dead-ends at the campground.

PARKING: This trail may be accessed from several parking areas:

Option 1) The campground parking area can accommodate up to 7 or 8 trailers. Please note that this parking area also serves the campground and may have a lot of vehicles during camping season/weekends. There are some pull-offs along Old Forge Rd prior to getting to the campground that may be used as trailer parking. Also, in the winter months the gate on Old Forge Road is closed and locked about ¼ mile up the road, so you will not be able to drive to the campground.

Option 2) Park at a pull-off along Horse Creek Park Rd just after entering the park and before turning onto Old Forge Rd. You would then ride Old Forge Rd approx. 3 miles to access the trail.

Option 3) See parking for Doctors Ridge Trail for one option.

TRAIL LENGTH: 1.6 miles | 45 to 60 minutes; Trail ends at Round Knob Pavilion or Little Jennings Trail

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: Rigorous (Advanced Riders)

Quite a few rocks and very rocky creek crossings to access this trail from Jennings Creek or Little Jennings Creek. Steady climb to the top but not extremely steep. Several switchbacks. Narrow ledges with some drop-offs but generally good footing.

DESCRIPTION: This trail is the center of a loop that encompasses Jennings Creek, Cowbell Hollow and Little Jennings Creek Trail. The trail begins at Old Forge Campground. On the left you will see a wooden arch over the trail that skirts the campground and a Forestry trail sign indicating trail number 21. Follow this a short distance to a set of concrete “steps” going down to the creek where you will cross and continue the trail, following signage and yellow blazes. In less than 0.2 mile, you will come to an intersection after a creek crossing. At this point, take the left trail onto Jennings Creek Trail to travel up Cowbell Hollow Trail or the right trail onto Little Jennings Creek Trail to travel down Cowbell Hollow Trail. This is a single track consisting of some narrow ledges with generally good footing and some steep drop-offs. There are several switchbacks that make the trail less steep. Rhododendron and wild blueberries abound. The view of the surrounding mountains is spectacular, particularly in fall. This trail is part of a larger loop and allows access to the Round Knob Pavilion for a good lunch spot. At the end of Cowbell Hollow, you will come to an intersection where a short spur on left will lead to the Pavilion or take a right onto Little Jennings Creek Trail.

SCENIC VIEW(S): N/A

SPECIAL NOTE(S): Cowbell Hollow Trail has no water, however there is an abundance of water on Jennings Creek and Little Jennings Creek Trails. If stopping at the Round Knob Pavilion, a small spring is located to the left of the pavilion down a short path.

TRAIL MAP: N/A

TRIP TICK(S): N/A

CONNECTIONS: The trail allows connection to Davis Creek and Little Jennings Creek Trails. Davis Creek Trail access is located to the right of the Round Knob Pavilion.